



Dover First UMC's Weekly Newsletter
March 27, 2026

Let's Worship Together
Sundays at 10:20 a.m.
in the Sanctuary

Nursery Care
Sunday mornings
for children 1 to 3
in rooms 1 and 3

Preschool
Sunday mornings
for children 4 to 6

Children's Ministry
Kidz Min Church
during Sunday Worship

Youth Ministry
Youth Group for grades
middle and high school
Sundays at 6 p.m.

Our Website
Visit doverfirst.org
for online services,
special studies,
announcements,
opportunities to serve,
and the church calendar
and ways to give.

Holy Week Reflections
Pastor Wesley George

What better way to lead into Holy Week than to think about Psalm 22.

This is the Psalm that was on Jesus' lips as he was dying. It always strikes me that if Jesus prayed this prayer in his darkness moment, I should probably consider it. The Psalm expresses the kind of deep anguish that I only feel at my darkest moments. Yet it ends in hope and triumph. So when I go through the times of deepest darkness it is my prayer because when I am that down, I find there is hope in God at the end of the tunnel.

That is something we all need when we are at our lowest.

What Psalm caught your attention this week?

Easter Breakfast



**Our Church Family Easter Sunday Breakfast
Begins at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

This year's buffet includes:

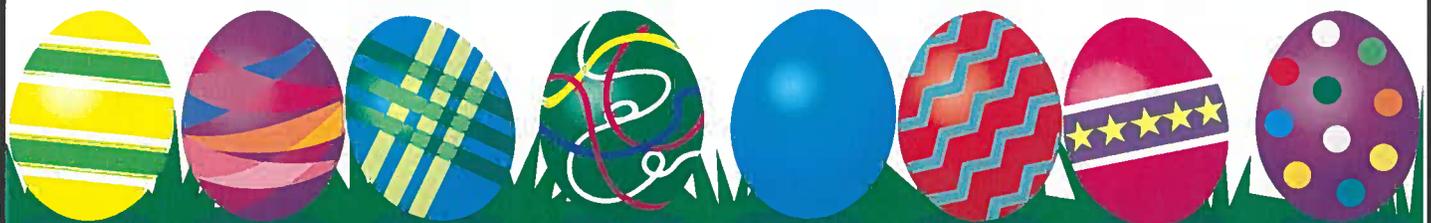
scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage
hashbrowns, fruit, options
to build a breakfast burrito,
coffee, tea, juice and milk.

Please sign up in the lobby.

Egg Hunt After the Easter Sunday Service

All children are invited to stay after the service
to find the colorful plastic eggs filled with goodies.

Our youth will hide the eggs outdoors if it's nice
or indoors in the event of inclement weather.





JOIN US FOR
EASTER

and Holy Week

Christ is Risen!

**Holy Week Services and Fellowships
at Dover First United Methodist Church**

Palm Sunday on March 29

10:20 a.m. Worship Service and Procession of Palms

Holy Thursday on April 2

5 p.m. Church Family Meal in Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Holy Thursday Service in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday on April 5

9 a.m. Church Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
Please Sign Up in the Lobby

10:20 a.m. Easter Sunday Service with Children's Church
Nursery Care Available

11:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for the Kids on the Church Lawn



LENTEN

OUTREACH

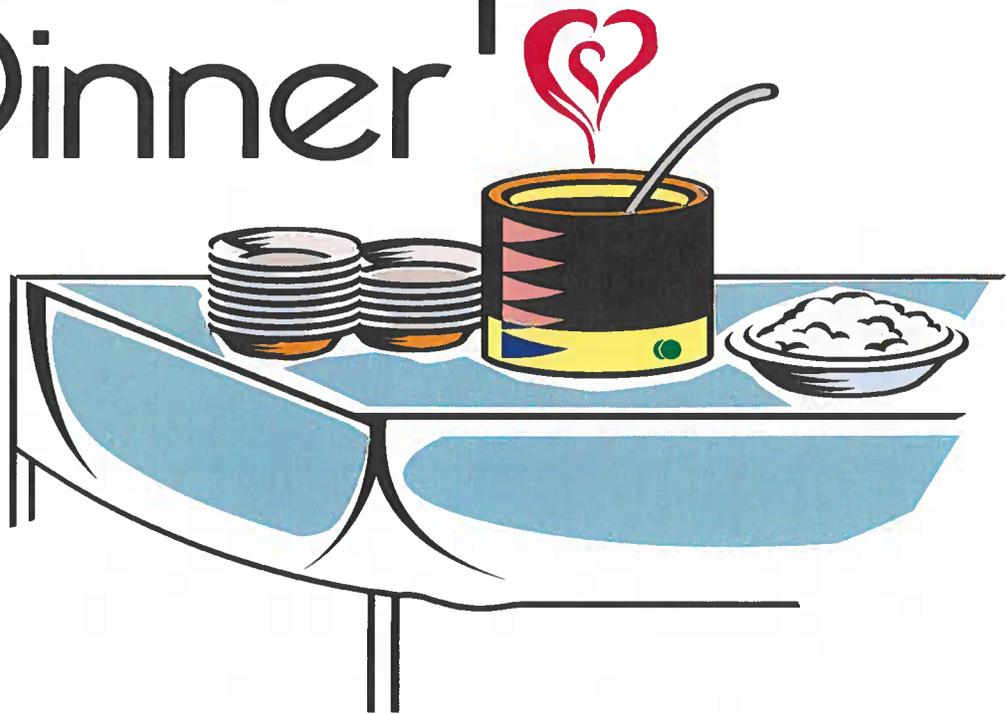
**This Year's Special Lenten
Envelope Offerings Will Support
the Mission of Beneath the Shade**

Beneath the Shade is a transitional living space for women who are choosing recovery and want to rebuild their lives and explore what having a relationship with God might be all about. Beneath the Shade is for women who have lived with substance use disorders, have at least 30 days substance free and know they need more time in a semi-structured and loving setting in order to live successfully on their own.

**To support this mission in our community,
please pick up a Lenten Envelope in the lobby,
and return your donations on Easter Sunday.**

[Visit beneaththeshade.org](http://beneaththeshade.org) to learn more.

Fellowship Dinner



Holy Thursday Lenten Meal
April 2nd at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a delicious baked potato bar, soup, beverages, and dessert in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 p.m.

Pastor Wes will share the Holy Thursday message in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.

Please RSVP by signing up in the lobby.

Sisters and Brothers,

We have reached Lent and as I think about Scripture I can think of no better time to read the Book of Psalms. Several years I have found great help in reading a Psalm a Day during the season of Lent. Often, I simply pick some of my favorite Psalms and read one a day. But sometimes I can be more deliberate and read them in an order. The Psalms are some of the most passionate parts of the Bible, exploring the breadth of emotions and how we communicate with God. The Psalms root us in how we meet God in the real world. Yes, some of the wording seems dated but the feeling is timeless and praying through them helps gives words to our deep-rooted feelings.

During the month of March, I want to encourage you to read Psalms. If you are like me, it will be one Psalm a day. You may want to start at Psalm 1 or you may want to jump around hitting popular Psalms like 42, 51, 100, 121. And if you are especially motivated you can try to read through the book in a month. A reading schedule for this is on a separate page.

No matter which of these exercises you choose, the point remains the same, to help you understand where you connect to God and where you need God. The Psalms are about helping us deepen our appreciation for life by helping us understand what we feel and articulate that to God. And so, over the next few weeks I hope you take the time to encounter the Psalms and through them God.

Blessings,

Pastor Wesley

The Food Pantry of Dover-New Phila

422 W. Third Street
Dover, OH 44622



The local food pantry is open twice each week for all in need of food from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon on Friday.

Home delivery is also available for the homebound and those unable to come to the pantry. Call (330) 649-2228 for info.

Do you or someone that you know need emergency food assistance today, please call (234) 801-8198.

The pantry is an all volunteer organization and many more volunteers are needed to distribute food at the pantry, as well as deliver food to are neighbors unable to come in:
Thursday 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Drivers are needed on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

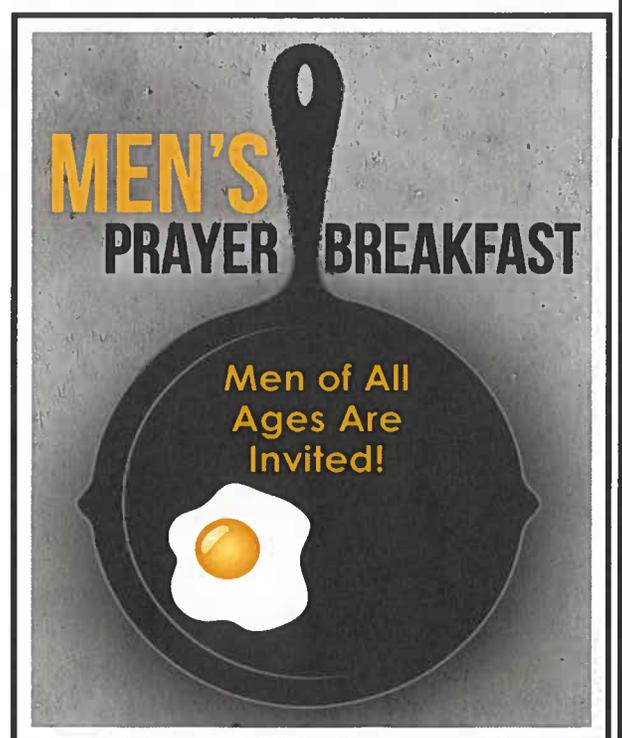
For additional information, visit the pantry website at:
dovernpfoodpantry.org or call (234) 801-8198

Community Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men of all ages are invited for breakfast, prayer and fellowship each month at a different church from 9 to 11 a.m.

April 18 **Salvation Army**
809 Emmett Ave NW
New Phila

May 16 **St. John's UCC**
409 N. Wooster Ave
Dover





**Welcome to Worship
Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude **"The Palms"**
 arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Call to Worship Psalm 118:14-20

L: The Lord is my strength and my power;
L: The Lord has become my salvation.
A: There are joyous songs of victory
A: In the tents of the righteous:
L: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,
L: The right hand of the Lord is exalted,
A: The right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"
L: I shall not die, but I shall live,
L: And recount the deeds of the Lord.
A: The Lord has chastened me sorely,
A: But has not given me over to death.
L: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
L: That I may enter through them
L: And give thanks to the Lord.
A: This is the gate of the Lord;
A: The righteous shall enter through it.

*Hymn #280 All Glory, Laud, and Honour

Scripture Isaiah 50:4–9a

Prayer

*Hymn #286 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Scripture Matthew 21:1–11

Choir Anthem “Embrace the Cross”
John G. Elliott
arr. Joseph Linn

*Offering Introduction/Doxology/Prayer/Lord’s Prayer

Message What Do You Cheer For?
Pastor Wesley George

*Hymn #278 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*Benediction

*Postlude “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
arr. Michael Burkhardt

When God Calls

Scripture: *Matthew 21:1–11*

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Questions

1. What did the disciples think was happening when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
2. What did the crowds around Jesus think was happening?
3. Did the crowd follow Jesus believe that what they were shouting applied to Jesus?

Background

Related Scriptures: Genesis 49:8-12; Psalm 118; Zechariah 9; Matthew 20:29-34

Matthew (unlike the other Gospels) tells us that Jesus was brought both a female donkey and her colt because it corresponds to the Greek translation of Zechariah 9:9.

The words the people behind Jesus sing are from Psalm 118 and are a traditional song sung on entering Jerusalem that anticipated the coming of the Messiah.

The crowds are proclaiming the coming of the son of David echoes back to how the blind men addressed Jesus in the previous passage.

When God Calls

Reflection

One of my favorite elements of the Bible is how it subtly messes with your expectations. For instance, in Matthew's Gospel "Son of David" is used in five places in relation to Jesus. In three of these the phrase is used by people calling on Jesus for healing (Matt 9; 15; 20). In one (Matt 12) the crowd is unsure of and pondering Jesus' relation to the Messiah Son of David. And the last time the phrase appears is as the crowds descend on Jerusalem shouting praises and singing Psalm 118. The question that always rings in my mind when I read this passage is, do the people in the crowd understand that Jesus is the Son of David or are they simply caught up in heading to Jerusalem? Do they understand they are walking behind the Messiah or are they lost in the revelry of their own lives? There is no clear answer to this. We are not told how the crowds thought simply what they did. When I think about this and I think about how the crowds shout for Jesus' crucifixion later in the week, I think they missed the significance of their own song. The crowd singing praise to God for sending the Messiah misses the Messiah riding in front of them.

This is that subtle element, the men who are physically unable to see and barred from temple worship, see who Jesus is. The woman who is outside Israel celebrates Israel's promised savior and calls on him for help. The crowds who participate fully watching Jesus' ministry and going to the Temple seem to miss the mark. If the crowds did think (or even hope) he was the Messiah, they turned on him rather abruptly. Did they think he was and then get upset because he was a Messiah who cared for the crippled while not overthrowing the government? Were they turned off by the man who had mercy on the Canaanite woman and brought her into his circle without giving them political power? Or were they so wrapped up in their own religious experience at coming to another Passover in Jerusalem that they simply missed the object of their praise right in front of them?

When I look at the passages in Matthew that speak about the Son of David I see four groups of people. The blind men and the Canaanite woman, people of simple faith who simply wanted to be whole. These people did not get bogged down with anything other than coming to Jesus for healing and saw who he is through that healing. Group two is the disciples. Unsure of what's going on around them but willing to follow Jesus whatever his plans are and trying to learn as much as they can along the way. The third group is the crowd, caught up in their own lives to such an extent that they miss the fulfillment of their joy right in front of them. So when later that same person is brought in front of them in a different context they have a completely different reaction. Lastly, group four are the Pharisees who watch the procession with deep skepticism because they do not trust that God could work through means other than what they were comfortable with.

Each of these groups can be a paradigm for how we approach Jesus. The first group understands what Jesus has done for them and proclaims that. This is fantastic it allows people to relate to us and use our experiences to help them springboard into a relationship with Jesus. The second group is also great because they are the ones who do not always understand but are determined to follow no matter what and willing to learn and grow as they do. These will be the people who lead others in discipleship and help them grow with God in difficult times. What we must watch out for is falling into the third or fourth categories. Being people too preoccupied with our importance or our experiences that we do not focus on Jesus and what he is doing. We might see the king riding into his city but it is lost on us. The good news is that even if we do fall into one of these last two categories Jesus comes into the city and lingers, giving us the opportunity to encounter him. Even if we miss one moment where we fail to understand what Jesus is doing, he provides us with many moments to learn from him and grow with him so that we can truly sing praise to the Son of David.

Holy Week at Dover First UMC



Palm Sunday

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
with a Procession
of Palms



Easter Sunday

9 a.m. Church Family
Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
Please Sign Up

10:20 a.m. Worship Service
Sanctuary
Nursery Available

11:30 a.m. Egg Hunt
On the Church Lawn
or Indoors in the
Event of Rain

Monday

10:30 a.m. Women's Study

Tuesday

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Scout Room

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

6 p.m. Friends in
Fellowship

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
Education Zone

7 p.m. Choir

Holy Thursday

5 p.m. Church Meal
Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Message
Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Grief Share
Lounge

7 p.m. WMM Church
Spanish-Speaking

7 p.m. Scouting
Leaders

Good Friday No Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Craft and Chat
Lounge

Easter Breakfast Prep
Fellowship Hall and Kitchen